

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-6, 12, 15, 17, 20 and 22 have been amended herein. New claims 26 through 29 have been added. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling an electronic device package comprising:  
forming a package shell having an aperture formed in a ~~top~~first surface thereof and a  
~~bottom~~second-side cavity formed in a ~~bottom~~second surface thereof and in  
communication with the aperture, the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity having an outside  
perimeter that is larger than an outside perimeter of the aperture to form a cavity ~~top~~first  
surface in the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity;  
forming at least one solder pad on at least the ~~bottom~~second surface of the package shell;  
mounting an optically interactive microelectronic device having an active surface within the  
~~bottom~~second-side cavity such that at least a portion of the active surface is exposed  
through the ~~aperture~~aperture and the second surface of the package shell protrudes  
beyond the optically interactive microelectronic device;  
depositing a transparent encapsulant within the aperture to cover the at least a portion of the  
active surface exposed therethrough; and  
covering the aperture with a transparent lid.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein depositing a transparent  
encapsulant comprises depositing the transparent encapsulant to a level that fills the aperture and  
covers a portion of the ~~top~~first surface of the package shell surrounding the aperture.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein covering the aperture with  
a transparent lid comprises:

lowering the transparent lid onto the ~~top~~first surface of the package shell; and  
holding the transparent lid in place by adhesion to the transparent encapsulant.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the optically interactive microelectronic device has a plurality of side surfaces, and further comprising:  
squeezing the transparent encapsulant out of a ~~bottom~~second side of the aperture within the  
~~bottom~~second-side cavity to at least partially encase at least one side surface of the  
plurality of side surfaces of the optically interactive microelectronic device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
leaving a back surface of the optically interactive microelectronic device exposed within the  
~~bottom~~second-side cavity.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein mounting an optically interactive microelectronic device comprises:  
forming at least one terminal pad on the cavity ~~top~~first surface that is operably coupled to the at  
least one solder pad;  
forming at least one conductive element on the active surface of the optically interactive  
microelectronic device; and  
bonding the at least one conductive element to the at least one terminal pad.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein forming at least one conductive element comprises forming at least one conductive bump on the active surface of the optically interactive microelectronic device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
forming the at least one terminal pad and the at least one conductive bump to comprise gold.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting the optically interactive microelectronic device to be an image sensor chip.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein forming a package shell further comprises forming the package shell of a ceramic.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
forming the transparent lid of glass.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling an electronic device package comprising:  
forming a package shell having an aperture formed in a ~~top~~first surface thereof and a ~~bottom~~second-side cavity formed in a ~~bottom~~second surface thereof and in communication with the aperture, the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity having an outside perimeter that is larger than an outside perimeter of the aperture to form a cavity ~~top~~first surface in the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity;  
forming a ledge surface in the ~~bottom~~second surface of the package shell around the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity;  
forming at least one solder pad on the package shell at least onto the ~~bottom~~second surface of the package shell;  
covering the aperture with a transparent lid;  
mounting an optically interactive microelectronic device having an active surface within the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity such that at least a portion of the active surface is exposed through the ~~aperture~~aperture and the second surface of the package shell protrudes beyond the optically interactive microelectronic device; and  
covering the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity with a backing cap.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein forming a package shell further comprises forming the package shell of a ceramic.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein covering the aperture with a transparent lid comprises integrally forming the transparent lid with the package shell during a ceramic firing process.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein covering the aperture with a transparent lid comprises:  
forming a depression in the ~~top~~first surface of the package shell; and  
seating the transparent lid within the depression.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein covering the aperture with a transparent lid comprises hermetically bonding the transparent lid to the package shell with an adhesive material.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein mounting an optically interactive microelectronic device comprises:  
forming at least one terminal pad on the cavity ~~top~~first surface that is operably coupled to the at least one solder pad;  
forming at least one conductive element on the active surface of the optically interactive microelectronic device; and  
bonding the at least one conductive element to the at least one terminal pad.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein forming at least one conductive element comprises forming at least one conductive bump on the active surface of the optically interactive microelectronic device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
forming the at least one terminal pad and the at least one conductive bump to comprise gold.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein covering the

~~bottom~~second-side cavity with a backing cap comprises:  
forming a compression member on the backing cap; and  
contacting a back surface of the optically interactive microelectronic device with the compression member.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein forming a compression member comprises forming at least one gold trace on the backing cap.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein covering the ~~bottom~~second-side cavity with a backing cap comprises:  
hermetically sealing the backing cap to the ledge surface with an adhesive material.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising forming the backing cap of a ceramic.

24. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
selecting the optically interactive microelectronic device to be an image sensor chip.

25. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
forming the transparent lid of glass.

26. (New) A method for assembling an electronic device package comprising:  
forming a package shell having an aperture formed in a first surface thereof and a second-side cavity formed in a second surface thereof and in communication with the aperture, the second-side cavity having an outside perimeter that is larger than an outside perimeter of the aperture to form a cavity first surface in the second-side cavity;  
forming at least one solder pad on at least the second surface of the package shell;  
mounting an optically interactive microelectronic device having an active surface within the second-side cavity such that at least a portion of the active surface is exposed through the

aperture;  
depositing a transparent encapsulant within the aperture to a level that fills the aperture and  
covers a portion of the first surface of the package shell surrounding the aperture and  
covers the at least a portion of the active surface exposed therethrough; and  
covering the aperture with a transparent lid.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein covering the aperture with a transparent lid comprises:  
lowering the transparent lid onto the first surface of the package shell; and  
holding the transparent lid in place by adhesion to the transparent encapsulant.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the optically interactive microelectronic device has a plurality of side surfaces, and further comprising:  
squeezing the transparent encapsulant out of a second side of the aperture within the second-side cavity to at least partially encase at least one side surface of the plurality of side surfaces of the optically interactive microelectronic device.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:  
leaving a back surface of the optically interactive microelectronic device exposed within the second-side cavity.